

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 25, 2008. Claims 1 to 12 and 15 to 18 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 15 to 18 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 11, 12 and 15 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,194,696 (Mori). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,842,262 (Gillihan). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,590 (Livingston). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns converting original data into print data processible by a printing apparatus and more specifically concerns management of front and back surfaces of a printed sheet. In one aspect of the invention, a first setting screen is displayed so that a user may set a basic attribute to be applied to the whole of the print data and a second setting screen is displayed to set a backside attribute to be applied to pages corresponding to the backside of the printing medium output in the double-sided printing where the backsides of the media are discontinuous.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method of converting original data into print data processible by a printing apparatus. The method includes the steps of displaying a first setting screen to set a basic attribute to be applied to whole print data and a second setting screen to set a back-side attribute to be applied to a plurality of pages each of which corresponds to the back side of the printing medium output in the double-sided printing; setting the basic attribute using the first setting

screen and the back-side attribute using the second setting screen; and generating the print data based on the basic attribute, the back-side attribute and the original data. The pages corresponding to the back sides of the printing media are discontinuous.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied reference, namely Mori, is not seen to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent Claim 1. In particular, Mori is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of displaying a first setting screen to set a basic attribute to be applied to whole print data and a second setting screen to set a back-side attribute to be applied to a plurality of pages each of which corresponds to the back side of the printing medium output in the double-sided printing, wherein the pages corresponding to the back sides of the printing media are discontinuous.

In contrast to the present invention, Mori discloses an information processing apparatus in which various book attributes may be set. The attributes may be set and applied independently. For example, a book attribute may apply to an entire document, a chapter attribute may apply to an individual chapter independently of the book attribute, and a page attribute may apply to an individual page independent of the book attribute as well as the chapter attribute are set.

In the Office Action, at page 4, lines 4 to 6, it is alleged that Mori discloses use of attribute setting to control back-side printing. Specifically, the Office Action describes a scenario wherein “with one page as the only back-side page, the feature of setting an attribute for all the pages that correspond to the back-side of the printing medium during duplex printing is performed.” Applicant respectfully points out that, in the proposed scenario, only the second page is assigned to the back-side of a printing medium. Therefore, the proposed scenario differs from the present invention in that the present invention the back-side attribute is set using the

second setting screen and is applied to a plurality of pages each of which corresponds to the back side of the printing medium.

In addition, the Office Action further describes the alleged setting of a back-side attribute by reference to Fig. 19 of Mori where it is alleged that “another example of this occurs in Figure 19 ... on one printing medium represented on a computer display.” Applicant has reviewed Fig. 19 of Mori and notes that, in Fig. 19, if a physical page containing pages 5 to 8 is selected and an attribute is set, the attribute as set is applied to the selected pages 5 to 8. In this case, the pages to which the attribute is applied have consecutive page numbers, that is, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Therefore, according to the example provided in the Office Action, Mori fails to disclose or suggest a back-side attribute to be applied to a plurality of pages each of which corresponds to the back side of the printing medium, wherein the pages corresponding to the back sides of the printing media are discontinuous.

Applicant has reviewed Gillihan and Livingston and submits that neither disclose that which is missing from Mori. Gillihan discloses an information processing apparatus that converts an electronic document to be output from an application into an intermediate metafile to be stored in a memory. Livingston discloses an information processing apparatus capable of selecting color text as a printing feature. However, neither Gillihan nor Livingston disclose or suggest displaying a first setting screen to set a basic attribute to be applied to whole print data and a second setting screen to set a back-side attribute to be applied to a plurality of pages each of which corresponds to the back side of the printing medium output in the double-sided printing, wherein the pages corresponding to the back sides of the printing media are discontinuous, as featured in Claim 1.

In light of these deficiencies of Mori, Gillihan and Livingston, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 15 is directed to a printing control apparatus which converts original data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 15 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 16 is directed to a printing control apparatus which converts input drawing data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 16 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 17 is directed to a computer-readable medium storing a computer program for recording a program for converting original data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 17 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 18 is directed to a computer-readable medium storing a computer program for converting input drawing data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 18 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The Director is authorized to charge the \$130 one-month extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-3939. The Director is further authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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